

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EA-11 SY-10 USSS-00 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20 /198 W

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P R 260730Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5533

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0159

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR, DM

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN POSITION ON KEY ISSUES AT 28TH UNGA

REF: STATE 163147

1. BASED ON REFTTEL, EMBASSY PREPARED AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH WAS GIVEN TO MFA DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS AUGUST 27. LATTER SAID HE UNABLE DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF QUESTIONS, AND PROMISED ARRANGE MEETING WITH DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, JOSEPH HOUNTON. IT WAS NOT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21 THAT DCM WAS ABLE OBTAIN MEETING WITH HOUNTON, WHO HAD GONE TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU.

2. HOUNTON'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. KOREA - SEE COTONOU 1277.

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B. CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS - DAHOMEY WILL ALSO SUPPORT CONVENTION.

∴. TERRORISM - IN PRINCIPLE, DAHOMEY DEPLORES TERRORISM, BUT WISHES ASSURE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST TERRORISTS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION GROUPS.

D. WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE - MRGD SHARES VIEWS EXPRESSED AT RECENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVE STAKE IN DISARMAMENT AND SHOULD HAVE VOICE IN RESOLVING THIS VITAL ISSUE, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LEFT SOLELY TO GREAT POWERS. DAHOMEY NOT WEDDED TO WDC FORMULA, BUT DOES SUPPORT SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN DISARMAMENT DISCUSSION BY SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COUNTRIES.

E. NON-USE OF FORCE - DAHOMEY AGREES WITH US POSITION THAT THIS QUESTION ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN UN CHARTER.

F. NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARIES - DAHOMEY VIEWS THESE WEAPONS AS LETHAL, ED WISHES THEM CONTROLLED. HOUNTON SAID THEY DO NOT MAKE FINE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND OTHER WEAPONRY.

G. ISRAEL - DAHOMEY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE POSITION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967. HER POSITION ON DEBATE IN UNGA WILL DEPEND ON WAY PROPOSAL IS PUT BY EGYPTIANS AND SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AT TIME.

H. AFRICAN ISSUES:

1. RHODESIA - ALONG WITH MOST OTHER AFRICAN DELEGATIONS, DAHOMEY WILL BE CRITICAL OF US ON CONCOMPLIANCE WITH UN SANCTIONS. HOUNTON ADMITTED UNFAIRNESS OF SINGLING OUT US FOR CRITICISM WHEN THERE ARE MANY OTHER VIOLATORS WHO ESCAPE CRITICISM. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT PUBLIC, OFFICIAL DISREGARD OF SANCTIONS BY US MAKES CRITICISM INEVITABLE. MANY OTHER VIOLATIONS
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MORE DIFFICULT TO DOCUMENT, AND DO NOT GIVE SMITH REGIME PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT THAT USG DISREGARD FOR SANCTIONS PROVIDES.

2. PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA - DAHOMEY ALSO LIKELY JOIN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN CRITICISM OF CONTINUING US TRADE LINKS WITH SOUTH AMERICA, AND NATO CONNECTION WITH PORTUGAL.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS - WOULD SUPPORT PRINCIPLES, BUT INSIST THESE SHOULD BE APPLIED TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

J. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS - DAHOMEY'S POSITION WILL BE DECIDED BY DELEGATION AT UNGA. WILL DEPEND ON HOW PROBLEM PRESENTED AND ON EVALUATION OF EFFECTS OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION ON UN FINANCING.

K. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - DAHOMEY WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ALONG WITH MOST OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

L. SAHELIAN ZONE DROUGHT - DAHOMEY WILL CONTINUE STRONGLY SUPPORT EFFORTS AID SAHELIAN DROUGHT VICTIMS. HOUNTON EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR WAY US ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SAHEL.

3. HOUNTON COMMENTED THAT DAHOMEAN DELEGATION WILL HAVE FLEXIBILITY TO DECIDE DURING DEBATE ON POSITION IT WILL TAKE ON MANY

ITEMS. THEREFORE, THE WAY SOME ISSUES ARE PRESENTED AND THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES CAN WEIGHT HEAVILY IN THE WAY DAHOMEY VOTES.
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